

Attorney Docket No. LANG-30273
Application No. 10/734,409
Amendment and Response

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 23, 24, 26, 36, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 55 and 58, and add new claims 72-74, as shown below. Please cancel claims 25, 27 and 50. Claims 14, 16-22, 39, 41-47, 56-57, 65-66 have been withdrawn from consideration.

1. (Currently Amended) A support system, arranged and designed to support an ankle of a foot, the support system comprising:
a sole inliner, configured for a sole of the foot;
a coupling;
a back inliner coupled to the sole inliner with the coupling, wherein
the back inliner is configured for a back of the foot, and wherein the back inliner, coupling and sole inliner do not extend over the ankle of the foot; and
an upper coupled to both the sole inliner and the back inliner, wherein
the upper adjustably secures the sole inliner and back inliner to the foot,
the upper, the sole inliner, the coupling, and the back inliner are operable to resist lateral movement of the ankle, and
the upper, the sole inliner, the coupling, and the back inliner are configured for integration within a shoe.
2. (Original) The support system of claim 1, wherein the coupling is positioned adjacent to a heel of the foot.
3. (Original) The support system of claim 1, wherein the upper further comprises a top upper member and a bottom upper member.
4. (Original) The support system of claim 1, wherein the upper further comprises:
a flexible member, which facilitates an initial engagement of the upper to the foot.

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5. (Original) The support system of claim 4 wherein the flexible member includes a neoprene material.
6. (Original) The support system of claim 1, wherein the upper further comprises a top upper member and a bottom upper member, and the top upper member and bottom upper member independently provide engagement of the upper to the foot.
7. (Original) The support system of claim 6, wherein the top upper member and bottom upper member are adapted to receive laces.
8. (Original) The support system of claim 1, further comprising a cover which surrounds the upper, the sole inliner, the coupling, and the back inliner.
9. (Original) The support system of claim 8, wherein the upper further comprises a flexible member and a top upper member and a bottom upper member, the flexible member provides an initial engagement of the upper to the foot, and the top upper member and bottom upper member independently provide further engagement of the upper to the foot.
10. (Original) The support system of claim 9, wherein the top upper member and bottom upper member are adapted to receive laces, the flexible member includes a neoprene material, and the coupling between the sole inliner and the back inliner includes a biasing member.
11. (Original) The support system of claim 1, wherein the coupling between the sole inliner and the back inliner includes a biasing member.

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12. (Original) The support system of claim 11, wherein the biasing member causes a bias towards an acute angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.
13. (Original) The support system of claim 11, wherein the biasing member causes a bias towards an obtuse angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.
14. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 11, wherein the bias of the biasing member is adjustable.
15. (Original) The support system of claim 11, wherein the biasing member includes at least one torsion spring.
16. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 11, wherein the biasing member includes a compression member.
17. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 16, wherein the compression member can be removably placed in one of a plurality of grooves on a side support of the sole inliner, and the placement of the compression member in each of the plurality of grooves adjust the bias between the sole inliner and back inliner.
18. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 11, wherein the biased coupling is caused by a compressive cord.
19. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 18, wherein the compressive cord can be wrapped around a cord winder to adjust bias between the sole inliner and back inliner.
20. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 18, wherein the compressive cord causes a bias towards an acute angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.

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21. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 20, wherein the compressive cord is moveable to a second position to cause a bias towards an obtuse angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.
22. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 18, wherein the compressive cord causes a bias towards an obtuse angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.
23. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 1, wherein the support system is integrated into a football shoe provided with cleats or spikes.
24. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 1, wherein the support system is integrated into a ~~running~~ shoe having a generally flat non-cleated or non-spiked sole.
25. (Canceled)
26. (Currently Amended) A shoe, arranged and designed to support an ankle of a foot, the shoe comprising:
a sole inliner, configured for a sole of the foot;
a coupling located generally at or adjacent to the heel of the foot;
a back inliner, ~~movably~~ coupled to the sole inliner with the coupling, wherein the back inliner is configured for a back of the foot; and
an upper coupled to both the sole inliner and the back inliner, wherein the upper adjustably secures the sole inliner and back inliner to the foot, the upper, the sole inliner, the coupling, and the back inliner are operable to resist lateral movement of the ankle and do not extend over the ankle of the foot while permitting at least one of dorsiflexion and plantar flexion movement in the foot.
27. (Canceled)

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28. (Original) The shoe of claim 26, wherein the upper further comprises a top upper member and a bottom upper member.
29. (Original) The shoe of claim 26, wherein the upper further comprises a flexible member, which facilitates an initial engagement of the upper to the foot.
30. (Original) The support system of claim 29, wherein the flexible member includes a neoprene material.
31. (Original) The shoe of claim 26, wherein
the upper further comprises a top upper member and a bottom upper member,
and
the top upper member and bottom upper member independently provide further engagement of the upper to the foot.
32. (Original) The shoe of claim 31, wherein the top upper member and bottom upper member are adapted to receive laces.
33. (Original) The shoe of claim 26, further comprising a cover which surrounds the upper, the sole inliner, the coupling, and the back inliner.
34. (Original) The shoe of claim 33, wherein
the upper further comprises a flexible member and a top upper member and a bottom upper member,
the flexible member provides an initial engagement of the upper to the foot, and
the top upper member and bottom upper member provide further engagement of the upper to the foot.

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35. (Original) The shoe of claim 34, wherein
the top upper member and bottom upper member are adapted to receive laces,
the flexible member includes a neoprene material, and
the coupling between the sole inliner and the back inliner includes a biasing member.
36. (Currently Amended) The shoe of claim 73 26, wherein the coupling between the sole inliner and the back inliner includes a biasing member.
37. (Original) The shoe of claim 36, wherein the biasing member causes a bias towards an acute angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.
38. (Original) The shoe of claim 36, wherein the biasing member causes a bias towards an obtuse angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.
39. (Withdrawn) The shoe of claim 36, wherein the bias of the biasing member is adjustable.
40. (Original) The shoe of claim 36, wherein the biasing member includes at least one torsion spring.
41. (Withdrawn) The shoe of claim 36, wherein the biasing member includes compression member.
42. (Withdrawn) The shoe of claim 41, wherein
the compression member can be removably placed in one of a plurality of grooves on a side support of the sole inliner, and
the placement of the compression member in each of the plurality of grooves adjusts the bias between the sole inliner and back inliner.

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43. (Withdrawn) The shoe of claim 36, wherein the biased coupling is caused by a compressive cord.
44. (Withdrawn) The shoe of claim 43, wherein the compressive cord can be wrapped around a cord winder to adjust bias between the sole inliner and back inliner.
45. (Withdrawn) The shoe of claim 43, wherein the compressive cord causes a bias towards an acute angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.
46. (Withdrawn) The shoe of claim 45, wherein the compressive cord is moveable to a second position to cause a bias towards an obtuse angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.
47. (Withdrawn) The shoe of claim 43, wherein the compressive cord causes a bias towards an obtuse angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.
48. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 26, wherein the support system is integrated into a ~~football~~ shoe provided with cleats or spikes.
49. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 26, wherein the support system is integrated into a ~~running~~ shoe having a generally flat non-cleated or non-spiked sole.
50. (Canceled)

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51. (Currently Amended) A support system, arranged and designed to support an ankle of a foot, the support system comprising:
a sole inliner, configured for a sole of the foot;
a coupling located generally at or adjacent to the heel of the foot;
a back inliner, movably coupled to the sole inliner with the coupling, wherein the back inliner is configured for a back of the foot and wherein the sole inliner, coupling and back inliner do not extend over the ankle of the foot, and
~~the coupling includes a biasing member to bias the sole inliner and back inliner towards an angle~~;
an upper coupled to both the sole inliner and the back inliner, wherein the upper adjustably secures the sole inliner and back inliner to the foot, the upper, the sole inliner, the coupling, and the back inliner are operable to resist lateral movement of the ankle while permitting at least one of dorsiflexion and plantar flexion movement in the foot; and
a cover, arranged and designed to surround the upper, wherein the upper, the sole inliner, the coupling, the back inliner, and the cover are configured for integration within a shoe.
52. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 51, wherein the coupling includes a biasing member to bias the sole inliner and back inliner towards an angle ~~causes a bias towards an obtuse angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner~~.
53. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 52 ~~51~~, wherein the biasing member causes a bias towards one of an obtuse or an acute angle between the sole inliner and the back inliner.
54. (Original) The support system of claim 51, wherein the upper further comprises a flexible member and a top upper member and a bottom upper member,

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the flexible member provides an initial engagement of the upper to the foot, and the top upper member and bottom upper member provide further engagement of the upper to the foot.

55. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim ~~52~~ 54, wherein the biasing member includes at least one torsion spring.
56. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 51, wherein the biasing member includes a compression cord.
57. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 51, wherein the biasing member includes a compression member.
58. (Currently Amended) A support system, arranged and designed to support an ankle of a foot, the support system comprising:
a sole inliner, configured for a sole of the foot;
a back inliner, configured for a back of the foot, wherein the back inliner is coupled to the sole inliner generally at or adjacent to the heel of the foot and does not extend over the ankle of the foot; and
an upper coupled to both the sole inliner and the back inliner, wherein ~~the upper includes a cutout, the cutout operable to permit dorsiflexion and plantar flexion movement in the foot, and~~
the upper, the sole inliner, and the back inliner are operable to resist lateral movement of the ankle.
59. (Original) The support system of claim 58, wherein sole inliner and back inliner are integrated as one piece.
60. (Original) The support system of claim 58, wherein the back inliner extends at least one inch up the back of the foot.

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61. (Original) The support system of claim 60, wherein the back inliner extends at least four inches up the back of the foot.
62. (Original) The support system of claim 58, further comprising:
a coupling, operable to couple the back inliner to the sole inliner.
63. (Original) The support system of claim 62, wherein the upper, the sole inliner, the coupling, and the back inliner are configured for integration within a shoe.
64. (Original) The support system of claim 62, wherein the coupling between the sole inliner and the back inliner includes a biasing member.
65. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 58, further comprising:
a wedge positioned on top of the sole inliner, the wedge operable to elevate a heel of the foot.
66. (Withdrawn) The support system of claim 66, wherein the wedge is further operable to protect the heel of the foot from impacts.
67. (Original) The support system of claim 58, wherein the upper further comprises:
a flexible member, which facilitates an initial engagement of the upper to the foot.
68. (Original) The support system of claim 67 wherein the flexible member includes a neoprene material.
69. (Original) The support system of claim 58, wherein
the upper further comprises a top upper member and a bottom upper member, and
the top upper member and bottom upper member independently provide
engagement of the upper to the foot.

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70. (Original) The support system of claim 58, wherein the upper further comprises a flexible member and a top upper member and a bottom upper member, the flexible member provides an initial engagement of the upper to the foot, and the top upper member and bottom upper member independently provide further engagement of the upper to the foot.
71. (Original) The support system of claim 70, wherein the top upper member and bottom upper member are adapted to receive laces, the flexible member includes a neoprene material, and the coupling between the sole inliner and the back inliner includes a biasing member.
72. (New) The support system of claim 2 wherein the coupling movably couples the back inliner to the sole inliner to permit at least one of dorsiflexion and plantar flexion movement in the foot.
73. (New) The shoe of claim 26, wherein the coupling movably couples the back inliner to the sole inliner to permit at least one of dorsiflexion and plantar flexion movement in the foot.
74. (New) The support system of claim 58, wherein the back inliner is movably coupled to the sole inliner generally at the heel of the foot to permit at least one of dorsiflexion and plantar flexion movement in the foot.